

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 245

By Hensley

A RESOLUTION to honor Elijah McCourry as the first-place winner of the 2015 Tennessee Tar Wars Poster Contest.

WHEREAS, protecting, promoting, and improving the health and prosperity of the people of the State of Tennessee is the stated goal of our State's health department, and tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable illness and death in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee ranked forty-sixth in United Health Foundation's 2014 America's Health Rankings in the use of tobacco and five points higher than the national median for smoking, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

WHEREAS, the smoking rate among high school students in Tennessee is 15.4 percent, while the adult smoking rate is 24.3 percent, according to the Tobacco Free Kids' tobacco-related data and rankings; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians has coordinated the national Tar Wars program in Tennessee since 1999 in an effort to discourage fourth- and fifth-graders in this State from using tobacco products; and

WHEREAS, Tar Wars is a pro-health, tobacco-free education program for fourth- and fifth-graders that is owned by the American Academy of Family Physicians, and it is designed to teach children about the short-term health effects and image-based consequences of tobacco use, to illustrate the cost and financial impact of using tobacco and the ways money can be spent more positively, to identify reasons why people use tobacco, and to explain how tobacco advertising, tobacco use in movies, and the tobacco industry market products to children; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we recognize and commend Elijah McCourry of Telford, a student at West View Elementary, for his exemplary efforts in promoting a tobacco-free lifestyle to all of our youth in Tennessee, and for placing first in the 2015 Tennessee Tar Wars Poster Contest.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.